



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

M6

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/788,492	03/01/2004	Nobuaki Hashimoto	118876	9029
25944	7590	06/13/2007	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			RICHARDS, N DREW	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2815		
		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
		06/13/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/788,492	HASHIMOTO, NOBUAKI	
	Examiner N. Drew Richards	Art Unit 2815	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 April 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-12, 17 and 18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-12, 17 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 01 March 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 3-5, 11, 12, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakanishi (US 6,756,252 B2) in view of Ling et al. (USPAT 6,445,069 B1).

With regard to claim 1, Nakanishi teaches an electronic device in figure 14A comprising:

- a substrate 84 on which an interconnect pattern 100 is formed;
- a chip component 10b having a base material and having a first surface (top surface) on which a pad (not labeled in figure 14A, however column 7 lines 63-64 indicate that the embodiment of figure 14A is similar to that described previously, thus similar to that of figure 10 which shows the pad 12 under the metal layer 102; as such it is one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that figure 14A would also include the pad under the metal layer) is formed and a second surface (bottom surface) opposite to the first surface, the chip component 10b being mounted in such a manner that the second surface faces the substrate 84;
- a metal layer 102 formed on the pad;

Art Unit: 2815

- an insulating section 104b/104c formed above and adjacent to the chip component 10b, the insulating section having a convex surface that draws a curve on a view from which a cross section perpendicular to the first surface of the chip component is taken, the convex surface having a top surface and descending from the top surface in an outward direction (figure 14a shows a view from a cross section perpendicular to the first surface of the chip component, as seen in figure 14a the insulating section has an inclined surface that is convex and draws a curve, this section is shown in figure 14a reproduced below); and
- an interconnect 106b which is formed to extend from above the top of the metal layer 102, over the insulating section 104b/104c and to above the interconnect pattern 100, the interconnect covering all the lateral surfaces of the metal layer.

Nakanishi does not explicitly teach the convex surface ascending from the first surface to have a top surface and having a portion above the first surface that has a lower surface than the top surface. Nonetheless, convex portion is considered an obvious change in shape that does not result in any unexpected result. *In re Dailey*, 357 F.2d 669, 149 USPQ 47 (CCPA 1966) (The court held that the configuration of the claimed container was a matter of choice which a person of ordinary skill in the art would have found obvious absent persuasive evidence that the particular configuration of the claimed container was significant.)

Art Unit: 2815

Nakanishi does not explicitly teach the metal layer formed of a plurality of layers including a diffusion prevention layer in contact with the pad and an uppermost layer being less oxidizable than the pad, the diffusion preventing layer preventing any diffusion of material formed thereabove into the base material of the chip component.

Ling et al. teach a chip component 10 of a base material having a first surface on which a pad 26 is formed and metal layer 32/34/36 formed of a plurality of layers including a diffusion prevention layer 32/34 in contact with the pad and an uppermost layer 36 being less oxidizable than the pad, the diffusion prevention layer preventing any diffusion of material formed thereabove into the base material of the chip component.

Nakanishi and Ling et al. are from the same field of endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to form the metal layer 32/34/36 of a plurality of layers by the method taught by Ling et al. on the pad 12 of Nakanishi. The motivation for doing so is to allow the use of copper interconnect metallization while facilitating the electrical coupling of connection pads to supporting substrates or other packaging while using known metal deposition processes in a simple and inexpensive manner that is compatible with gold bond wires, solder bumps, and other common circuit connection methods and that allows tight spacings between adjacent connections pads without compromising the reliability of the integrated circuit.

With regard to claim 3, Nakanishi does not teach a passivation layer on the first surface of the chip component. However, Ling et al. teaches a passivation layer 13 over the chip where the metal layers (electrode) are exposed through the passivation

Art Unit: 2815

layer. At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to form a passivation layer over the chip. The reasons for forming a passivation layer are well known in the art, including to passivate and protect the surface of the layers of the chip. In combination, the insulating section has a portion on the passivation layer since the insulating section of Nakanishi covers the chip surface.

With regard to claim 4, Nakanishi further teaches a connecting layer 104b (the portion formed underneath chip 10b) disposed between the chip component and the substrate, wherein the insulating section is formed of the same material as the connecting layer.

With regard to claim 5, Nakanishi as combined with Ling et al. above render the method recited obvious as they perform the claimed "mounting" and "forming" steps as claimed to arrive at the same device of claim 1.

With regard to claim 11, this claim is rejected in the same manner as claim 3 above.

With regard to claim 12, this claim is rejected in the same manner as claim 4 above.

With regard to claim 17, Nakanishi teaches a circuit board (unlabeled bottom cross-hatched portion in figure 10B) on which the device of claim 1 is mounted.

With regard to claim 18, the device of Nakanishi is considered an electronic instrument.

Art Unit: 2815

3. Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakanishi with Ling et al. as applied to claims 1, 3-5, 11, 12, 17 and 18 above, and further in view of Ito et al. (US Patent No. 6,625,032 B1).

With regard to claims 6 and 7, Nakanishi does not explicitly teach the interconnect being formed of a dispersant including electrically conductive particles or forming the layer includes ejecting the material over the metal layer, the insulating section, and the interconnect pattern. Nakanishi teach the interconnect being conductive ink but does not explicitly teach a "dispersant including electrically conductive particles."

Ito et al. teach on column 1 lines 30-37 that a dispersant including electrically conductive particles is ejected onto a substrate to form conductive layers. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the prior art conductive particles in dispersant ejecting method of Ito et al. in the method of Nakanishi to obtain rapid implementation of interconnects on surfaces.

4. Claims 2 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakanishi with Ling et al. or Nakanishi with Ling et al. with Ito et al. as applied to claims 1, 3-7, 11-12, 17 and 18 above, and further in view of JP 01-164044.

With regard to claims 2 and 8-10, Nakanishi does not teach the insulating section being formed of a resin. Nakanishi teach the insulating section 104 being formed of any suitable non-conducting material which can be applied to the die, such as epoxy or polyimide (see column 5 lines 45-47). Nakanishi teach the insulating section applied

over the substrate 84 and along the side of the chip 10 to surround the chip. JP 01-164044 teach forming an insulating section in a configuration similar to that of Nakanishi in that it is formed on the substrate 1 and along the side of the chip 4 to surround the chip. JP 01-164044 teach the insulating section being formed of resin. At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to employ a resin as taught by JP 01-164044 for the insulating section 104 of Nakanishi. Nakanishi teaches that any suitable non-conducting material can be used and JP 01-164044 merely teaches one example of a suitable material (resin) used in the same manner as Nakanishi. It has been held that the use of conventional materials to perform their known functions in a conventional process is obvious. *In Re Raner* 134 USPQ 343 (CCPA 1962). Further, it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. *In Re Leshin*, 15 USPQ 416.

Double Patenting

5. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated

Art Unit: 2815

by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

6. Claims 1-12, 17 and 18 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-34 of copending Application No. 10/788449 in view of Nakanishi and Ling et al. Claims 1-34 contain all the limitations of claims 1-18 except for a metal layer on the pad where the metal layer is a plurality of layers as claimed, the insulating section having an inclined surface as claimed, and the interconnect pattern covering all the lateral surfaces of the metal layer. However, the plurality of metal layers as claimed is obvious in view of Ling et al. for the same reasons as explained above. The insulating section having an

Art Unit: 2815

inclined surface as claimed is obvious in view of Nakanishi which teaches an incline in the insulator to allow for a plane with no steep stepped part so that a low cost interconnection method such as screen printing can be used. The inclined surface of the insulating section of Nakanishi renders the claimed inclined surface obvious as discusses above.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Response to Arguments

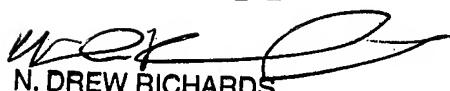
7. Applicant's arguments filed 4/2/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant has argued that Nakanishi, nor any of the other cited references, teach the insulating section formed above and adjacent to the chip component having the surfaces and structural relations recited in claims 1 and 5. Though Nakanishi does not explicitly teach the claimed configuration of the insulating section, the claimed configuration is considered obvious in view of Nakanishi. The mere change in shape recited in the claims is considered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art as it requires only a minor modification of the shape in Nakanishi that does not result in any difference in operation or effect.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to N. Drew Richards whose telephone number is (571) 272-1736. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ken Parker can be reached on (571) 272-2298. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


N. DREW RICHARDS
PRIMARY EXAMINER